

# The Shield of Faith

## Summer Key Passage:

"Therefore put on the full armor of God,  
so that when the day of evil comes,  
you may be able to stand your ground,  
and after you have done everything, to stand."  
Ephesians 6:13 (NIV)

## Today's Story Point:

Faith acts as a shield against evil.

## Today's Bible Passage:

"In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith,  
with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one."  
Ephesians 6:16 (NIV)

## LEADER PREP:

*It's a fact of life that our faith will be tested. There WILL be battles with the enemy. And the battlefield can just as easily be a child's playground, school bus or cafeteria as it can be any adult forum. The Bible not only acknowledges that we will face battles, but it also provides us with the tools we need in order to win.*

*One of those tools is the shield of faith. Faith helps us hold up under pressure. It helps us recall times when God has helped us in the past, and gives us assurance that He will be there for us in the future. Faith can bring to mind Bible passages that will encourage and renew our hearts and minds. Faith can ultimately block the arrows Satan throws at us. By remaining firm in our faith we can thwart Satan and emerge victorious. Use this lesson to instill in kids the confidence that THEIR faith can hold firm - that they, too, can be victorious in battle.*

# WELCOME TIME

Coloring Page NO PREP	Where's My Shield? NO PREP
<p>Have children color the "Job" coloring page.</p> <p><b>SAY</b> • Today we will learn about a man named Job who was faithful to God in spite of some really hard things that happened to him. Through those hard times, his <b>faith acted like a shield against evil.</b></p>	<p><b>SAY</b> • Today we are learning about another piece of the armor of God - the shield of faith. What is a shield used for? <i>Let kids answer.</i> A shield is used to protect someone from swords, lances or other weapons when going into battle. The Bible says in Ephesians 16 that our faith can be a shield to protect us from the flaming arrows that Satan throws at us. We're going to do an activity today that will help us see what it's like to have protection from flaming arrows - and what its like to NOT have protection. First, we need some arrows!</p> <p><i>Set out a supply of colored paper and have kids crumple it up into "arrows." Place a masking tape line across the center of the floor and have kids form two groups facing each other across the line. Give all the balls to one group and on your signal have this group begin throwing the "arrows" towards the other group. The kids in the other group should remain standing still and might complain that they have no weapons, but continue to play anyway. After a minute or so, call time and switch roles and let the other group have a chance to throw.</i></p> <p><i>When done, have kids sit down and ask the following questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What was it like having the arrows thrown at you?</li><li>• How did you feel without any way to protect yourself?</li><li>• How is that like how it feels sometimes in real life when tough problems come your way?</li><li>• What would have made you feel safer during this game?</li><li>• What helps you face problems in real life?</li></ul> <p><b>SAY</b> • When the arrows were being thrown at you in this game, you had no defense. You had no way to protect yourself. That's what it's like in life when Satan throws problems at someone without faith. The person has no way to fight back. He or she might feel defeated and hopeless.</p> <p>But that's not the case for someone who has faith! The Bible says that <b>faith acts as a shield against evil.</b> With faith, we can defend ourselves. We can trust in God. We can face any problem because we know that God is on our side. Even when things get rough and our faith is tested, we can hold on to the knowledge that God loves us and we're never alone.</p> <p>That makes me think of a guy in the Bible who really had to hold on to his faith during some very tough times. We'll be learning about this man shortly.</p>

# LARGE GROUP TIME

## WORSHIP:

Choose 3 to 4 songs to sing today. Encourage leaders to participate by doing the hand motions!

## SUMMER KEY PASSAGE:

Show the summer key passage and read it aloud with the kids. Remind them that they have the entire summer to learn this verse, and that if it doesn't make sense now, to keep coming back to learn what the armor of God is all about!

## BIBLE STORY:

### A Serious Story: Job

Have kids form 5 groups and give each group a Bible. Have kids read Job 1:1-12 in their groups.

#### ASK THE GROUP:

- What kind of man was Job?
- What did Satan say about Job?
- What do you think Satan had planned for Job?

**SAY** • Satan had plans for Job, and they weren't going to be happy surprises. They were going to be the flaming arrows that we talked about earlier. Let's find out what those arrows were.

*Explain that each group will read a section of the Bible story, then illustrate it on a poster. After groups have finished drawing, each group will present its poster to the rest of the class. After all of the posters have been hung on the wall in order, your class will have a visual display of Job's trials.*

Assign groups the following passages:

Group 1: Job 1:13-15

Group 2: Job 1:16

Group 3: Job 1:17

Group 4: Job 1:18-19

Group 5: Job 2:1-8

*Give each group a sheet of poster board, crayons or markers and pens. Have kids work together in their groups to create a poster depicting the events in the section they just read. Remind them that they'll be presenting the poster to the other groups who haven't read that part of the story.*

*After about 10 minutes, tell kids to finish their drawings. Then let groups present their posters in chronological order to the rest of the class, explaining the events that happened to Job. Hang the posters on the wall.*

**SAY** • Wow! Those are some flaming arrows from Satan, aren't they?

#### ASK THE GROUP:


- How would you have felt if those things had happened to you?
- What do you think Job was feeling and thinking?
- After all those bad things happened, how do you think Job felt about God? How would you have felt?



**SAY** • It's hard to imagine that Job kept his faith in God through all those awful things, but he did! In fact, look at what he said after he had lost his possessions and servants and kids. *Choose a volunteer to read aloud Job 1:20-22.* Later, even as Satan afflicted Job with sores all over his body, Job's faith held firm. Listen to what he said then. *Have a different volunteer read aloud Job 2:8-10.* Job showed amazing faith, didn't he? He used his faith as a shield against everything that Satan threw at him. He could have turned away from God and given up, but instead he kept trusting God, even though he grieved and suffered. Before we close though, let me tell you one more thing. This story has a happy ending. God restored Job to even more than he had before! He ended up with a big family and lots of riches.

Close in prayer.

## REVIEW ACTIVITY & PRAYER

Shield of Faith Handout NO PREP	Create your own Shield SOME PREP
<p><i>Give each kid a copy of the "Shield of Faith" handout. Set out colored pencils for kids to share and give each child a Bible.</i></p> <p><b>SAY</b> • Our faith can be a shield to defend us against whatever Satan throws our way. In each section of your shield, write one situation where your faith might be tested. Maybe you're having trouble making friends and you wonder if God cares. Or maybe someone you love is sick or sad, and you're waiting for God to help. Write a few words to describe the situation, but try to be as specific as possible. Feel free to discuss what you're thinking with someone near you.</p> <p><i>After kids have written their situations, have them up the verse at the bottom of each section. Invite volunteers to share what they've written and drawn with the rest of the class.</i></p> <p><b>SAY</b> • As we saw in the account of Job, God is the only one to turn to in times of trouble. God loves you and cares about what happens to you. You can always talk to God about hard things that you're going through, and ask Him to help your faith to remain strong.</p>	<p><i>Supply craft items (such as stickers, gems, color dots, glitter glue, markers, etc), and hand out a cardboard shield to each child. Have each preschooler decorate their cardboard shield and then cut and glue the items below to make it look like the example. They can decorate their shield however they want with the items you have. Encourage them to take their shield home as a reminder of today's lesson.</i></p>  <p><b>SAY</b> • Our Faith can be a shield against Satan. It takes courage and strength to hold on to our faith when times are hard. Remember that God will not test us beyond what we can handle, and that He has given us what we need to stand firm against evil.</p>

### CHECKOUT PROCEDURE:

- As parents begin to arrive, open the door and have one leader stand just outside the classroom door with the attendance sheet.
- Take the parent's security sticker and call loudly for the child to come.
- While you wait for the child to come, tell the parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the service and distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.
- Before you let the child leave the classroom, look to see that the parent and child security codes match and remove the sticker from the child's shirt as they leave.

Note: If a parent lost their security sticker, send them to the Service Lead to receive a temporary sticker; never allow a child to go to a parent unless they have the security sticker.

### LOOP KIDS LEADER CLEANING GUIDELINES

Immediately after each service, clean the classrooms according to the posted cleaning guidelines.